

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12-13, 15-21, and 23-31 were pending in the present application. In the forgoing amendments, claims 1, 7-8, 12, 20, and 30-31 have been amended, claims 6, 15-16, and 23-24 have been canceled without prejudice and disclaimer to the subject matter disclosed therein; and new claims 32-33 have been added. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification and claims of the application as filed. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments above and the remarks below.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 6-8, 12, 13, 15, 17-21, 23 and 25-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Padovani *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,151,502), hereinafter referred to as Padovani. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Independent claim 1 or 30, as amended, recites a mobile station (or an apparatus) configured to: “measure powers of signals transmitted from a plurality of base station transceivers; identify each base station transceiver whose measured signal power is greater than a threshold; place indicators of said identified base station transceivers to a first set; transmit the indicators; use the indicators in the first set to search for a direction message; and receive a direction message from at least one of the identified base station transceivers not in communication with the mobile station via a traffic channel” (emphasis added). Applicants submit that claim 1 or 30 as amended is not disclosed by the cited portions of Padovani. For example, in Padovani, the base stations *in communication with mobile station 2* transmit the handoff direction message to mobile station 2 (see col. 8, lines 20-22). Thus, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 30 are allowable over the cited reference. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

To expedite prosecution of the application, independent claims 12 and 20 have been amended in the forgoing amendments to explicitly incorporate respective limitations of claims 16 and 24 (and those of any intervening claims), which were objected to in the Office Action, and

are therefore in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 2-4, 7-8, 13, 17-19, 21, 25-29, and 32-33 each depend from one of independent claims 1, 12, 20, and 30 and are allowable as well. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of these claims be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, claims 16 and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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